

Vol. XXXIV.

July-Sept., 1923.

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LONDON

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LUZAC'S Oriental List and Book Review

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REVIEWS, NOTES, NEWS.

Shin-to. The Way of the Gods in Japan. By George Schurhammer, S.J. With 102 illustrations and 12 coloured plates. Bonn & Leipzig, 1923.

This sumptuously produced volume comes to hand just as news is reaching us of the appalling disaster suffered by Japan. On turning the pages one wonders how many of the beautiful shrines so well depicted here are still in existence. There are few of us to-day to whom destruction of any of these relics of old Japan does not bring grief and dismay, but it was not so with the Jesuit missionaries of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries whose writings provide the basis for this book. They state very clearly the view that temples and other paraphernalia of native religion were but manifestations of the devil, and they glory unreservedly when their converts committed what we should consider gross acts of vandalism. Useful contributions to our knowledge of Shintoism as a religion cannot be expected from such unsympathetic observers. What the student will find in these pages is valuable material, some of it never before published, illustrating the progress of early Christian missionary enterprise in Japan. He will find, too, eyewitnesses' notes of certain historical events, and, though they are couched in somewhat fanatical terms, some have definite documentary value.

The author is a Jesuit Father, and the dedication is appropriately made to St. Francis Xavier, the founder of the Jesuit Mission in Japan. The closing words are these, speaking of a community near Nagasaki, for 300 years faithful to Christianity: "The cross that nowadays looks down from the church on the martyrs' hill gives us the happy confidence, that also in the Land of the Rising Sun, the night of dark and sorrow will some time be followed by the victory day of the cross which Francis Xavier brought to these shores."

The text is printed in parallel columns of German and English.

The Travels of Fa-hsien (399-414 A.D.), or Record of the Buddhistic Kingdoms. Re-translated by H. A. Giles, M.A. Cambridge, 1923.

Forty-six years have passed since Prof. Giles first published in book form a translation of Fa-hsien's travels. The work is now a rare one, but that is not the only reason why this new version is especially welcome. Apart from the increasing interest taken by Western students in Buddhism, much of the ground traversed by the intrepid pioneer of Chinese pilgrimage has in recent years been made familiar to us by the discoveries of Sir Aurel Stein and other explorers. Geographical identification has now so far advanced that we may follow Fa-hsien's route with little hesitation from Central China across the Gobi Desert, over the Hindu Kush, and through India down to the mouth of the Hoogly, whence he sailed for the coast of China. It is a fine story of brave adventure and pious perseverance, told so engagingly that one is loth to put it down till the pilgrim regains his native land after fifteen years of wandering. We think, therefore, that Prof. Giles has done well to offer a literal rendering unadorned with foot-notes, Chinese characters, or other additions likely to hinder the general reader from full enjoyment of the text itself.

The Royal Chronicle of Abyssinia. 1769-1840. With Translation and notes by H. Weld Blundell, B.Litt., F.R.G.S. (Cambridge University Press, Price 50/-.)

Mr. Weld Blundell has rendered a signal service to students of Abyssinian history by the publication of this very handsome volume, which is a credit alike to the editor and the publisher. The type employed is a very great improvement on the type that was so long used for Ethiopic in England, and the printed page is a real pleasure to the eye. The Ethiopic text occupies 198 pages, and is followed by a full translation occupying nearly 300 pages. This chronicle deals with the period between 1769 and 1840, and is concerned entirely with the domestic affairs of Abyssinia. The chief hero whose exploits are contained in this volume is Ras Mikael, who for many years was the dominating figure in Abyssinian history, though himself not a king but only a king-maker.

Apart from Mr. Weld Blundell's admirable translation, the volume contains a number of most valuable appendices, dealing with such various matters as chronology and calendars, ecclesiastical titles, and tribes. These appendices in themselves form a most valuable guide to students of Ethiopic history, and offer a solution to many puzzling points which the student encounters in his researches, especially with regard to the Ethiopic calendar. The text and translation can be strongly recommended as a reading book for beginners in Ethiopic; the style is simple and the matter often entertaining.

Yoruba Grammar. By J. A. de Gaye, F.L.S., F.E.S., Inspector of Schools, Nigeria, and W. S. Beecroft, Headmaster, St. Francis Xavier's School, Lagos. Second Edition. London (Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co.); Lagos (C.M.S. Bookshop), 1923.

Yoruba Composition. Same author and publishers.

Yoruba ("Yariba" in Cust's *Modern Languages of Africa*) is a language of great importance, both from the extent of territory it covers and the numbers of educated natives who now speak and write it. It had attracted the attention of missionary societies as long ago as 1843, when the late Bishop Crowther published his *Grammatical Note and Vocabulary*—to be followed later on (1852) by his completed *Grammar and the Dictionary*. Bowen's *Grammar and Dictionary* (Washington, U.S.A., 1858) constitute a meritorious and—for the period—very sound piece of work, but the volume has long been out of print. Messrs. de Gaye and Beecroft's **Grammar** has been suggested by the fact that the University of Glasgow has recently accepted Yoruba as an optional modern language in its Matriculation Examination. As the candidates most likely to offer it would probably be Yoruba natives, it might seem, on a casual view, to be somewhat superfluous, but the speakers of a language are not necessarily able to formulate its grammatical rules for examination purposes. The book "which is also intended to meet the requirements of the Native Language Examination for Public Officers of Southern Nigeria," seems well adapted for its purpose, being clear and concise, and containing numerous exercises, without which rules are seldom found of much use. We might suggest one or two criticisms: the vocabularies on which the exercises are based are too full, if intended (as we suppose) for English, as well as native students (in the case of a new language they should not exceed ten words in the early stages); and we should deprecate too rigid an adherence to the grammatical terminology of European languages. It is also, we cannot help thinking, a pity that the authors have been unable to take advantage of Mr. A. Lloyd James's recent studies in Yoruba phonetics. The **Composition** is an excellent introduction to Yoruba syntax, and contains a useful collection of proverbs and idiomatic phrases. Some of the latter have an interest beyond the immediate scope of the book: "The sword does not know the head of the blacksmith"; "Ashes fly back in the faces of him who throws them"; "Though a man may miss other things, he never misses his mouth."

Tutankhamen. By Sir E. A. Wallis Budge. Martin Hopkinson, 10s. 6d.

Recent discoveries have led to much wild talk about the worship of Aten, the disk, in the fourteenth century. It is the main purpose of the present book to assemble all the evidence about the history and religion of the period and present it in a manner which will enable the general reader to form his own opinion. After giving an account of what is known about Tutankhamen, the texts dealing with the beliefs of the Egyptians about Amen-Ra and Aten, the god who was turned into a vehicle for a new religion by Amenhetep IV., are discussed and the most important given in the hieratic text with a full translation. At the close a summary of what can be said about monotheism is based on translations from texts of all periods. The writer brings evidence to show that the so-called Egyptian reformer was under the influence of an Indo-European cult practised in Mesopotamia, and gives a more sober estimate of Aten worship than popular writers who have absurdly overestimated this religious movement. An interesting preface forms a very pleasing tribute to the memory of Lord Carnarvon, "the great and disinterested archæologist."

Babylonian Problems. By Lieut.-Col. W. H. Lane. John Murray, 21s.

This book opens with a preface by Professor Langdon, giving an account of the early history of Opis as it may be deduced from scattered references in cuneiform records, and a short bibliography of geographical works on the Tigris below Baghdad. In the opening chapter, the author states the topographical problem as to the position of Opis, then proceeds to examine the remains of "Nimrod's Dam" and the walls, built for purposes of military defence, connected with it. The sectors of the wall have been personally examined by the writer, who draws new conclusions as to details of the construction, and points out the military strength of the wall. There follow a description of the mound called Tell Abir and the neighbouring district, an examination of the Tigris canal system as described in cuneiform, classical and Arabic documents, which leads the author to identify Tell Abir with Opis, an account of Xenophon's march of the Ten Thousand down the left bank of the Euphrates to Cunaxa and the retreat to Opis, with geographical identifications, and a consideration of the Emperor Julian's campaign. Finally, the topography of the city of Babylon is considered, with suggested explanations of various building inscriptions and military campaigns. The volume closes with an exhaustive set of translations and extracts from various sources, cuneiform, classical and modern, which are used in the course of the work. It is to be hoped that the author's call for a scientific enquiry into the details of the wall constructions he has noted will meet with the attention of one of the missions now in Iraq.

In the brief preface to his **Study in Hindu Social Polity**, Mr. **Chandra Chakraborty** admits that the book is composed of "hastily-drawn sketches." The adjective is quite correct. His book testifies to wide reading in the literatures both of India and modern Europe; but this erudition is ill-digested, and balanced by no critical judgment. The serious reader who comes upon the perfectly ridiculous antisemitic outburst on page 38 or the equally absurd statement on page 246 that "the Arya Kings were never autocratic or arbitrary," will at once lay the book down, and never take it up again. The errors of matter are equalled by the inexactitudes of form: the pages swarm with misprints and mis-spellings, often of the grossest kind. All this is very regrettable, as the book has some merits. The first chapter treats of the physical geography of India; and the second deals with "ethnic elements in Hindi nationality," which means apparently the origins of the races inhabiting India, in regard to which we may note that the author accepts (without acknowledgment) the hypothesis of the Akkadian origin of the Dravidians, and divides the Aryan invasions into three, the first about 2500 B.C. by way of the Oxus and Kabul rivers into the Indus valley, the second before 1500 B.C. from the upper Euphrates valley by sea to Dwarka (a theory which enables our author to exploit the Boghazeui tablets), and a third about 1250 B.C. through Chitral and Gilgit, led by the five Pândavas—a very improbable combination indeed. The third chapter deals with the myths of Babylon and India, and endeavours—uncritically—to connect the two series. The fourth on the "Hindi" (i.e., Indian) languages contains nothing new. The fifth is on "Hindi scripts"; what of it is true is not new, and what is new (i.e., the theory that the Brāhmī and Phoenician scripts were sisters derived from the same parents, and that the former was brought to India by the second Aryan invasion through Dwarka) is probably not true. The sixth is on the whole sound in the explanation which it offers for the origin of caste, while the seventh, on social organisation, though useful as supplying a large number of literary references to the subject, is quite uncritical in its treatment.

We have recently received the first volume of **Studies in the History of Sanskrit Poetics**, by **Sushil Kumar De**, M.A., D.Lit., a work which, when completed, will form a masterly and exhaustive survey of a very important branch of Indian literature. Hitherto no work has appeared that has dealt with the subject, or any considerable part of the subject, with equal fulness and critical method, and Dr. De is to be congratulated on his success in exploring the wide and difficult regions of Alamkāra literature and on his lucid and orderly presentation of his data. The study of the principles which guide poetical expression is a very ancient one in India. Even in the time of Yāska it had made considerable progress; and it rapidly developed in

various directions, at first from the point of view of logic and grammar, and then from the more subtle standpoints of stylistic and aesthetics, giving rise to systems framed with great ingenuity and skill, which well deserve consideration in the history of human thought. The present volume contains a survey of the chronology and sources of Alamkāra literature, which are presented with remarkable completeness and accuracy, while for the next volume is reserved a systematic account of the doctrines of Alamkāra in their various developments.

In his little monograph, **Raja Ravi Varma**, Mr. **C. R. Ramanujacharya** has set himself to do for his hero something like what Ruskin did for Turner; but whereas Ruskin was content to place Turner at the head of our landscape-painters, our author sees in Ravi Varma "the greatest master in the world of art," and in his popular picture of Damayanti and the Swan "the greatest painting the hand of man ever made in praise of the Maker." He dwells with ecstatic rapture upon every detail of the painting, and traces in its lines a mystic and sacred significance of the profoundest kind. It must be confessed that his discovery of these sublimities in Ravi Varma is likely to be very surprising to the unappreciative occidental, to whom that artist's work must seem strongly suggestive of German oleographs; but Mr. Ramanujacharya's enthusiasm is interesting, though it is hardly likely to be contagious in the West.

We may call the attention of students of history to Dr. **Hemchandra Raychaudhuri's** recent paper entitled **Political History of India from the Accession of Parikshit to the Coronation of Bimbisara**, which has been reprinted from the Journal of the Department of Letters of Calcutta University, Vol. IX. Despite the somewhat lofty suggestions of its title, it is really a modest and useful essay, being an attempt to bring together all the references from literature to persons and places that existed in the period under survey, and thence to evolve as coherent a series of historical statements as possible. On the whole the author has been fairly successful; the weakest part is in his treatment of the Puranic material, for which he has not been able to avail himself of Mr. Pargiter's latest critical researches, and the value of the work would be much greater if it were furnished with an index.

Under the title of **Ayan** a new magazine of Indian literature and art has just appeared in Calcutta. It is in Bengali, and embodies the ideals and efforts of the circle of young artists and writers who have grouped themselves around Rabindranath Tagore and Abanindranath Tagore. Both these gentlemen have contributed to the first number, the former being represented by a short poem and the latter by a coloured frontispiece and an essay, while Nandalal Basu gives us an imaginative study in colour styled "Evening" and two drawings. The editor is Bireswar Sen, and the publishers are the Indian Society of Oriental Art.

Historical Sites in Palestine. By Lt.-Com. **Victor L. Trumper.**

This book is intended in the first place for the tourist, but the Bible student and any interested in Palestine will find in it a handy collection of the modern place-names which have been or may be identified with various ancient sites mentioned in the Bible. The general arrangement, from South to North, is considerably helped by the compass bearings and distances given, and by the three handy maps. The object of the book is altogether admirable, and it will prove of the greatest assistance to all visitors to the Holy Land. Perhaps in future editions the compiler will eliminate certain passages which are clearly due to the origin of his work, namely, to supply British troops with some interest in the history and geography of the places through which they passed; and in their place more historical information about such an interesting city as Gaza might be included. Throughout the book continual references are made to the Crusaders and to Napoleon's expedition, so that the attention of the reader is called to the very diverse nature of the sites, and to the manifold interest of the countryside. The book may be highly commended to intending visitors as useful, handy, and cheap.

The Cambridge Ancient History: Vol. I. (Egypt and Babylonia to 1580 B.C.); 615 pp., with numerous tables and 12 maps.

This handsome volume is the first in a projected series of eight, which are designed to embrace the period from the very dawn of history to the victory of Constantine in A.D. 324, and thus to complete that survey of the fortunes of the human race which has long ago been begun by the Cambridge Modern and Medieval Histories. The appearance of this first member of the last of the three series marks, therefore, an important stage in the course of the whole work, as well as providing one of the extreme limits of its scope. For a book of such importance the joint editors have been able to secure the co-operation of the most distinguished scholars in the various branches of inquiry which enter into the scheme, and have succeeded in so apportioning the contributions of each that overlapping and minor inconsistencies have been eliminated as completely as can ever be the case in a work by various hands, and they are entitled to claim all due credit for the accomplishment of this difficult and somewhat thankless task.

The first two chapters, which cover the period of pre-history, are contributed by Professor Myres, in the brilliant and suggestive manner which he is so well able to apply to the dumb matter of stone and earth, which is all that remains to tell us of the infancy of the world, and of the creature Man who was destined so to turn it upside down. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that the progress of the narrative after these chapters has to be interrupted by general treatises upon the materials of history proper before the main theme can be resumed. Chronology might perhaps have been discussed in a prefatory chapter, and the conspectus of methods in ancient history and of the Semitic races, excellent in themselves, do not seem inevitable portions of the book. With Chapter VI. the thread of history is taken up in the predynastic period of Egypt, and thence continues without further break. Egypt is in the capable hands of Professor Péet and Dr. Hall, Babylonia is shared between Professor Langdon and Mr. R. C. Thompson, and the early civilisation of Crete and the Aegæan area is discussed by Mr. A. J. B. Wace. Into particular questions which may be raised in the reader's mind by these pages this is not the place to enter; he will at least be satisfied that here is presented, in a compact and quite readable form, the latest information and the most mature judgments which are available in relation to the distant past with which this volume is concerned. Complete agreement upon every point is neither possible nor, in the present condition of knowledge, desirable.

It remains only to add that the bibliographies, maps, and lists, as well as the printing and appearance of the book, are highly satisfactory.

Les Penseurs de l'Islam. By Baron Carra de Vaux. Vols. I. and II. Paris.

To pilot the general reader through the strange seas of Islamic history and culture and to bring him home not wearied with the weight of things only dimly understood, but thrilled with discovery and enriched with new ideas, is an achievement not attained by many Orientalists. Baron Carra de Vaux has gone far towards accomplishing this in his first two volumes of the above work. His method is selection, not cataloguing. Vol. 1, which is devoted to Arab, Persian and Turkish rulers and historians, gives us lifelike pictures of the outstanding personalities of Islam in these two categories. Similarly in Vol. 2, representative men from among the great geographers and scientists are vividly presented, with significant extracts from their writings. The work when completed will be an excellent introduction to the study of Islam.

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- Schäfer (Heinrich)**—Grundlagen der ägyptischen Rundbildnerei und ihre Verwandtschaft mit denen der Flachbildnerei. Mit 10 Abb. (Der Alte Orient. Bd. 23, H. 4.) 8vo. pp. 40. Lg. 1923.

Africa and Egypt—*continued.*

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Cook's Handbook for Egypt Sudan. With chapters on Egyptian archaeology by Sir F. A. Wallis Budge. 4th ed. 12mo. pp. 966. L. 1923. £1.

Goss (A. Bothwell)—The Civilization of the Ancient Egyptians, profusely illustrated. (Through the Eye Series.) Roy. 8vo. Cl. pp. 101. L. 5s.

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RELIGION.

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Graf (George)—Ein Reformversuch innerhalb der koptischen Kirche im zwölften Jahrhundert. (Collectanea Hierosolymitana. Bd. 2.) 8vo. pp. xv., 208. Paderborn. 1923.

Koran: Tafsira ya Kurani ya Kiarabu, kwa Lugha ya Kisawahili, pamoja na dibaji na Maelezo Machache. The Koran in Swahili. By Godfrey Dale. 8vo. Cl. pp. xxii., 686. L. 1923. 3s. 6d.

Roeder (Günther)—Urkunden zur Religion des alten Agypten. Übers. u. eingel. 8vo. pp. lx., 332. Jena. 1923.

ARABIA, PERSIA, AND TURKESTAN.

ART.

Sarre (F.)—L'Art de la Perse ancienne. Traduction de Paul Budry. Avec 150 pl. hors texte en photogravure. 4to. pp. 216. P. 1923. f. 35.

Wahhab (Ahmad A.)—A thesis on drama in the Arabic literature. 1st edition. 16mo. pp. 2, 112. Dacca. 1922.

HISTORY AND GENERAL LITERATURE.

Ibn Majid; Les Oeuvres.—Tome 1 Fasc 7. Instructions Nautiques et Routiers Arabes et Portugais des XV et XVI siècles. Reproduits, traduits et annotés par G. Ferrand. Texte Arabe. On Subscription only.

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'Amal-i-Salih, or Shāh Jahān Nāmāh, of Muhammad Salih Kambo. (A Complete History of the Emperor Shāh Jahān.) Bibliotheca Indica. Fasc. V. Price 2s.

Arabian Nights' entertainment (The). Cheap ed. (Carnarvon series.) Cr. 8vo. pp. 586. L. 1923. 2s.

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Cheikho (L.)—Anciens Traités Arabes, contenant La Politique de Themistius, l'Economie Domestique de Probus (?), Les Récits amusants de Bar Hebraeus et l'Exclusion de la Tristesse, attribué à Platon. In Arabic. Roy. 8vo. Beyrouth, 1923. fr. 5.

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